

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 6
Joint State Hearing/Columbia River Compact
July 6, 2006

Fisheries under Consideration:	Columbia River Sport Salmon Fishery Treaty Commercial Fishery
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Management guidelines, stock status and past fisheries are described in Summer Fact Sheet #1, dated June 15, 2006.

STOCK STATUS

- Bonneville Dam counts from June 16-July 5 total 48,492 Chinook. Passage is typically 62% complete by July 5.
- TAC has upgraded the summer Chinook run size to 87,000 fish at the river mouth and has also upgraded the sockeye run to 40,000 fish.

Summer Chinook Sport Fishery

- The non-treaty allocation for sport fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam is about 4,800 fish, based on the draft upper Columbia management plan and the updated run size.
- Summer Chinook sport fisheries are non-selective and are scheduled from the Tongue Pt./Rocky Pt. line upstream to Priest Rapids Dam during June 16-July 31, and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam during July 1 through October 15.
- Catch rates during June 16-30 remained high in areas below Bonneville Dam. The estimated catch through June 30 is 3,384 Chinook from 19,629 angler trips.
- Catch rates declined from 0.17 Chinook/angler during June 16-30 to 0.08 Chinook/angler during July 1-5 likely due to decreased flows, increased river temperatures, and declining fish abundance. The estimated catch from July 1-5 is 586 Chinook from 7,279 angler trips.
- Expected catch for the remainder of July is less than 800 Chinook with the majority of the catch occurring in the Gorge area.
- Catch and effort above Bonneville Dam has remained minimal, with a projected total catch of 100-300 Chinook for the season, based on past years.
- Given actual and predicted catches, less than 4,800 summer Chinook will be harvested in the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam during June 16-July 31. The predicted total recreational harvest below Priest Rapids Dam should not exceed 4,900-5,100 fish.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff is recommending a Joint State hearing be scheduled for Wednesday July 12 at 2:00 to discuss additional opportunity for sturgeon retention in the area below Wauna power lines
- A Columbia River Compact hearing for consideration of commercial fall fisheries has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 27, 2006 located at the River Street Building, 25 River Street in Cathlamet, Washington.